



THE mEMO



A joint publication between N.C. Emergency Management and the N.C. Emergency Management Association

ReadyNC App Now Available

North Carolina Emergency Management is launching the first statewide application for emergency preparedness.

“There are numerous apps for emergency preparedness,” said state Emergency Management Director Mike Sprayberry. “But this app combines solid preparedness information with real-time weather, traffic and evacuation information AND gives the necessary contacts to begin recovering from disasters.”

The free app enables users to get real-time weather and traffic conditions, find which counties have evacuation notices and determine where shelters are open to help evacuees. It also allows browsers to find out which nearby streams and rivers may be at risk for flooding by looking up flood gage information. Using the app, you can report a power outage or contact FEMA or the U.S. Small Business Administration to get help to recover from a disaster. But most importantly, you can find quick, concise information on how to prepare yourself and family for any emergency and what to do in typical disasters that strike in North Carolina.

The mobile application is available free for iPhones and Droid devices.



New NCEMA Leadership Installed

New board members for the N.C. Emergency Management Association were installed at the recent fall conference in Wilmington. Serving until next fall are:

President – JoAnn Spencer, Carteret County (photo to right)
 First Vice President – Don Campbell, Guilford County
 Second Vice President – Russell Greene, Alexander County
 Treasurer – Suzanne Hamby, Wilkes County
 Secretary – Robin Shaver – Stanly County

During the fall conference banquet Angela Ledford (Buncombe County) was recognized for her leadership and service during her tenure as president of the Association for 2012-2013.



CAMET Program Adopted as National Model to Help Protect Pets During Emergencies

The American Kennel Club has adopted North Carolina's Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailer (CAMET) program as a national model to help protect pets in emergencies.

Using the CAMET program as a guide, the AKC launched the pet project with the goal to raise money to purchase/ equip similar trailers, then donate them to local emergency management offices across the country. They began publicizing the funding need and program concept Sept. 10, 2013. The first private donations came from Patrick and Almira Dallas of Pamlico County who had witnessed the need for such equipment after Hurricanes Isabel and Irene struck their county. This is the first CAMET trailer purchased/donated under the AKC program.

Seeing the tremendous loss of domestic pets and livestock after Hurricane Floyd in 1999, the N.C. Dept. of Agriculture and NCEM partnered to develop a program that would enable evacuees to bring their domestic pets with them to public shelters. The concept is to house typical pet supplies (small and large crates, generator, feeding bowls, leashes, collars, litter and pans, cleaning supplies and microchips) in a mobile trailer that can easily be deployed and set up as part of a shelter for evacuees. The animals are kept in a separate building within close proximity to the human shelter so the owners can visit, feed and take care of their animals at the shelter.

There are now more than 45 CAMETs owned and maintained by local Emergency Management offices.

Joint Agency Mass Violence Planning & Response Symposium

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013
7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Forsyth Tech,
W. Campus Auditorium
1300 Bolton St. Winston-Salem

The fast-paced course focuses on different mass violence events & provides responders with the training to begin response planning. It is free for active public safety members; pre-registration is required.

Contact: 336-661-6440 or
august@cityofwsfire.org

Department of Public Safety Deputy Secretary Ellis Boyle extends gratitude on behalf of DPS to a Pamlico County couple whose donation purchased a CAMET for their home county. He is joined by Sharron Stewart, Emergency Programs director for N.C. Agriculture and Consumer Services and NCEM Director Mike Sprayberry.



State/Federal Funds Help Communities Recover from Summer Floods

This fall, 16 western counties, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the city of Albemarle received welcome news. State and federal funds were approved to help defray some of the costs these communities incurred during three separate summer storms.

On September 25, President Obama issued a federal disaster declaration for 13 counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to help pay for storm response and cleanup from the severe flooding and storms that struck much of western North Carolina between July 3 and 13. The declaration means that counties can submit requests to be reimbursed for 75 percent of eligible costs to repair infrastructure, remove debris and provide emergency protective measures. Along with the EBCI, counties that were approved for the federal funds included: Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Polk, Watauga and Yancey.

Federal flood aid was approved October 29 for three more counties – Catawba, Lincoln and Wilkes – to help them recover costs associated with responding to flooding in late July. Severe thunderstorms dumped between 10 and 20 inches of rain damaging roads, bridges, culverts, public utilities, and parks.

FEMA initially denied funding aid to Catawba, Lincoln and Wilkes because the two storms were considered separate incidents and the damages from the July 27 flooding did not meet the necessary threshold to qualify for federal assistance. The state appealed the decision to FEMA showing that damage estimates had exceeded the necessary threshold.

Combined, the July storms caused more than \$28 million in damages across the counties.

Two days later, Governor Pat McCrory issued a state disaster declaration for the city of Albemarle to help the community recover from the severe thunderstorms that struck June 13. State and local officials worked closely together to capture all of the storm-related costs to determine if the city would meet the threshold to qualify for state assistance. Final costs were submitted in late October.

The state declaration means state funds will help pay the city of Albemarle for 75 percent of the cost of those emergency protective measures. Estimates indicate the city spent nearly \$1 million to respond to the storm.



Above: State funds will help the city of Albemarle pay for emergency response measures such as debris removal from downed trees like the one seen here.

Below: Federal funds were approved to help cover the costs to repair roads, bridges and culverts that were damaged during the severe summer flooding that impacted 16 western counties. Gov. Pat McCrory (bottom left) and Transportation Secretary Tony Tata survey some of the road damage in Catawba County.



Review of 2013 NCEMA Fall Conference

By Gary Jones, NCEMA Executive Director

Last month, more than 330 people participated in the annual North Carolina Emergency Management Association Conference in Wilmington. Participants included Frank Patterson, emergency management coordinator for the city of Waco and McLennan County, Texas. Patterson discussed the overall response activities associated with the April 2013 ammonium nitrate explosion at the West Fertilizer Company in West, Texas. Later he provided a second presentation focused on the ongoing recovery efforts at the explosion site.

Kurt Schwartz, the director of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency discussed this year's Boston Marathon. First, he covered the overall planning and preparations for the race and then discussed the response to the terrorist bombings, the subsequent manhunt and shelter-in-place request for 1million people and the press and public communications challenges.

The conference also highlighted lessons learned from recent local incidents including flooding, dam breaks and sinkholes. Multiple presenters discussed local programs designed to involve the Latino community in emergency preparedness and how the state can support these efforts. Other speakers provided insight into planning for energy emergencies, discussed the benefits and challenges of integrating interns into local emergency management offices and reviewed 'tricks of the trade' to involve the community members in local emergency management outreach programs.

Other presentations looked into the use of unmanned aircraft systems in emergency

operations; animal carcass disposal issues that can occur during natural disasters or disease events; emergency planning requirements for nursing homes, adult care homes and mental health group homes; and the implementation of the recently revised North Carolina Certification Program. In addition, federal and state law enforcement officers discussed recent trends in gang activity in North Carolina and the importance of evidence collection at hazardous materials sites that are also crime scenes.

State Emergency Management staff provided timely updates on recent changes to the National Flood Insurance Program, the state-wide hazard mitigation program and the Training and Exercise Registration Management System. NCEM employees also discussed the deployment of specialized state search and rescue teams, available GIS products that can help in disaster operations, new federal disaster recovery policies, and the continued evolution of FirstNet in our state.

Norma Houston from the UNC - Chapel Hill School of Government talked about basic legal issues for new emergency management coordinators and reviewed how to research and decode state statutes and legislation. She also gave an in-depth look at the state's bidding laws and exceptions to those laws that govern emergency procurement. Another topic discussed by state and local public information officers focused on how local emergency management directors are key to the timely disclosure of accurate disaster information to the general public.

NC Emergency Management Association Awards

The following individuals were recognized at the 2013 North Carolina Emergency Management Association Fall Conference for their outstanding achievements:

Gaylon Moss, Disaster Relief Coordinator with North Carolina Baptist Men, was awarded the *James F. Buffalo Award* for outstanding support and leadership to emergency management agencies. This award is presented annually to someone outside of the emergency management community.

Warren Moore, Individual Assistance Manager, received the *Colonel William A. Thompson Award*. The award is presented annually to a North Carolina Division of Emergency Management employee for demonstrating outstanding achievement in assisting local emergency management coordinators with programs, incidents and information.

Deborah Hartsell of the Lincoln County Emergency Management Office received the *Vance E. Kee Award*. This achievement is presented to the local emergency management staff member who demonstrates outstanding achievements in their local program by promoting emergency management among other county and state agencies and elected officials.

Christy Saunders, Pasquotank-Camden-Elizabeth City emergency management director, was awarded the *Colonel Phillip Nichlos Waters Award* which is presented to the local emergency management coordinator/director who demonstrates outstanding achievement in their local emergency management program and contributes to the overall good and advancement of the emergency management system in the state.

Brian Short (Vance County Emergency Operations Director) and **Eric Griffin** (UNC – Wilmington Emergency Manager, received the NCEMA President's Award for their dedication, support and contributions to the association through their service on the Legislative Committee. Outgoing NCEMA President Angela Ledford made the presentations as one of her last acts as association president.



Left: NCEMA President Angie Ledford presents awards to Eric Griffin (left) and Brian Short thanking them for their support during her presidency.

From top: Ledford presents the James F. Buffalo Award to Gaylon Moss, disaster relief coordinator for the N.C. Baptist Men. Ledford presented the Colonel William A. Thompson Award to Warren Moore, NCEM Individual Assistance manager. Deborah Hartsell, with Lincoln County Emergency Management won the Vance E. Kee Award and Christy Saunders won the Colonel Phillip Nichols Waters Award.

Sirens Warn Residents Of Potential Flooding

Residents in portions of Caldwell County now have a new warning system in place to alert them to the potential of dangerous flooding, thanks to a grant from North Carolina Emergency Management.

Five sirens were strategically installed in September along an eight-mile stretch of Wilson's Creek so that people along the entire gorge could be warned when flooding reaches dangerous levels. The sirens will be activated during flash flood warnings and tornado warnings. They are controlled by a series of tone signals at Caldwell County 911 Telecommunications. Residents may hear quick siren blasts for about 10 seconds each month, as local officials test the sirens.

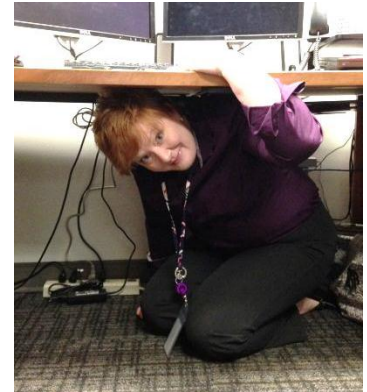
"Flash flooding can happen in minutes along Wilson's Creek because the entire run off from the mountains funnels straight down that gorge," said Robbie Wilkie, Caldwell County Emergency Services director. "Even if it is not raining at Wilson's Creek, if the mountains north of that area have heavy rain, it will flood. The elevation drop from Grandfather Mountain to Brown Mountain Beach is 5,100 feet in less than 15 miles. This can cause water levels to increase from one foot to eight to ten feet in a matter of seconds. These sirens are intended to warn not only residents but the thousands of tourists that frequent the area. The goal is to save lives."

A \$119,700 hazard mitigation grant paid for the sirens and also signs.

County officials said the Wilson's Creek area has experienced flash flooding numerous times in recent years. This year alone, Wilson's Creek has experienced up to 10 flash flood warnings.



Five sirens, like the one pictured left, were installed along Wilson's Creek in Caldwell County to warn residents of dangerous flooding. Signs in the area warn people that "Wilson's Creek is noted for Deadly Flash Flooding. If you hear sirens this indicates a flash flood warning and you should go to higher ground."



NCEM's Kathy Brewer practices earthquake safety.

Did You Shake Out?

Nearly 67,000 North Carolinians joined six other states for the Great Southeast ShakeOut Oct. 17. This was the second year the region has banded together to promote earthquake safety to individuals, families, companies, government agencies and other groups.

The drill included three simple steps – drop, cover and hold on – to be safe during earthquakes. Even minor earthquakes can cause objects to fall. Taking cover helps avoid serious injuries. Drills like the Great Southeast ShakeOut help people learn what to do so they are ready in emergencies. "It only takes a few minutes to practice safety steps in emergencies," said N.C. Emergency Management Director Mike Sprayberry. "But that time investment could save your life."

Mitigation Funds Aid Alleghany in Emergencies

A new 60 kilowatt generator will help Alleghany County Emergency Medical Services continue operating when they are needed most.

“This makes our Emergency Operations Center much more disaster-resilient,” said Gerald Leftwich, Alleghany’s emergency management director.

The much-anticipated generator can kick in within 30 seconds of a power outage and supply back-up power to the building for nearly a week. North Carolina Emergency Management provided a \$31,000 Hazard Mitigation grant to purchase the generator for Alleghany County Emergency Management.

“We want to do everything we can to provide to our local responders the basic tools they need to do their jobs,” said NCEM Director Mike Sprayberry. “Obviously, ensuring they have power to operate is vital.”

From left: County Manager Don Adams, County Commissioner Chair Larry Cox, County Maintenance Worker Joey Jones, FEMA program specialist Victor Geer, NCEM Hazard Mitigation Officer Chris Crew, County EM Coordinator Gerald Leftwich, NCEM Executive Assistant Joyce Holley, NCEM Area Coordinator Greg Atchley, EMS Director Linda Edwards, County Maintenance Worker Mark Perdue and NCEM Western Branch Manager



NCEM Achieves National Re-Accreditation

North Carolina's Emergency Management program was granted full re-accreditation in early October by the national Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP).

"This is yet another affirmation of what an outstanding group of emergency managers we have in North Carolina," Department of Public Safety Secretary Perry said. "Time and time again our local, state and federal agencies and volunteer organizations prove they are up to the challenge and can respond to any emergency."

The EMAP accreditation is a voluntary process for state and local government programs that coordinate preparedness and response activities for natural or man-made disasters. It affirms an agency's ability to bring together staff and resources from a variety of organizations to prepare for, respond to and recover from any given emergency, and validates that agency can provide continuous and consistent response to disasters. The EMAP process evaluates several areas including: planning, resource management, training, exercises, evaluations and corrective actions, communications and warnings. The accreditation status is valid for five years after which time the agency must be reassessed and recertified to ensure they are compliant with EMAP procedures and standards.

After months of preparation, NCEM staff worked with trained EMAP assessors last spring as they conducted a peer-review assessment of the agency's programs and practices to ensure the division was in compliance with 64 national standards. Assessors examined 18 capability categories ranging from Hazard Mitigation to Incident Management to Crisis Communications.

"In many ways, re-accreditation is even more arduous than the initial qualification process, requiring an extensive review of all aspects of our state's emergency management programs, including ways we've improved our response plan and program," said state Emergency Management Director Mike Sprayberry. "To be recommended for full-accreditation with no deficiencies is a rare accomplishment and is extremely gratifying."

In 2008, North Carolina became the eleventh state to earn national accreditation. There are now 30 states and 15 local jurisdictions which have earned accreditation status.

"I'm extremely proud of our staff and the partnerships we've forged with local responders to prepare for and respond to all types of disasters," said Sprayberry.



Mark your Calendar

Nov. 20	WebEOC Exercise
Dec. 3	McGuire Government Agency Training, <i>Charlotte</i>
Dec. 4	Kerr Scott Dam Exercise
Dec. 5	Catawba Nuclear Tabletop Exercise, <i>Charlotte</i>
Dec. 17	NCEM All Hands Meeting, <i>Raleigh</i>
Jan. 17	SERC Meeting <i>Raleigh</i>
Jan. 22	NCEM Forum, <i>Raleigh</i>
Jan. 22-24	NCHART Training, <i>Stanly County</i>

Staffing Changes

Departing

Jay Anderson – resigned with NCEM’S Geospatial Technology Management section in August to pursue opportunities out of state.

Mike Feger – left NCEM in October to accept a position with the U.S. Department of Defense in Washington, D.C. He joined NCEM as an exercise officer last January.

Carolyn Frietag – left NCEM in October after 18+ years to join NCDOT Public Transportation as a mobility specialist. Carolyn served as the lead exercise planner and also the state coordinator for the Emergency Management Assistance Compact program.

Cooper Hancock – resigned NCEM effective Nov. 22 to go work for FEMA.

Cherelle James – resigned as NCEM’s Human Services manager to devote her full attention and time to the financial businesses that she and her husband started.

Angie Langston – resigned as the NCEM Eastern Branch office manager in October to go work for FEMA.

Joining the Team

Perchrista Boone – became the new office manager for the NCEM Eastern Branch in October. She previously worked in the Division of Juvenile Justice.

Meghan Brown – joined NCEM in August as a homeland security planner working with development, monitoring and reconciliation of grants and programs.

Zach Carpino – was promoted in August to be the Radiological Emergency Preparedness program manager.

Phyllis Courtney – joined NCEM as a Hazard Mitigation Specialist in late October. She has

been working with the division for much of the year managing Irene and tornado 2011 projects.

Mary Donny – joined NCEM as assistant Human Services Program manager in late September. Donny worked in Raleigh previously, but most recently worked as regional special needs planner in Hampton Roads.

Nolan Fry – is NCEM’s new homeland security strategic planner. He previously worked in Governor McCrory’s Constituent Services Office.

Joyce Holley – became NCEM’s latest hazard mitigation specialist in early October. She joined the division in 2006 and most recently was supporting fiscal reporting and project disaster closeout.

Matthew Kemnitz – is NCEM’s new Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources Planner. He came to the division from the State Energy Office where he was an energy assurance planner.

Jim Klopovic – joined NCEM in November as an exercise officer. He previously worked at the Governor’s Crime Commission.

Donna Miller – re-joined NCEM in August as part of the fiscal section. She is a former employee of the NCEM Disaster Housing section.

Steve Powers – was promoted in August to Central Branch Manager. He previously served as an area coordinator and was a grants manager.

Tim Reavis – joined NCEM in August as a Community Development Specialist working with the homeland security section.

Chris Tant – was promoted in August to NCEM Operations Officer in charge of the 24-hour center.

Katie Webster—joined NCEM Planning team in August as one of the meteorologists.